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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/041,049	01/07/2002	Katsu Tasaki	MAT-8202US	1956

7590 09/23/2003

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EXAMINER

ALPHONSE, FRITZ

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2675

DATE MAILED: 09/23/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/041,049

Applicant(s)

TASAKI, KATSU

Examiner

Fritz Alphonse

Art Unit

2675

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 07 January 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 5.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other:

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Fan (U.S. Pat. No. 5,926,168).

As to claim 1, Fan (fig. 5) shows a pointing device comprising: an indicator (i.e., pointing means 40) including a first transmitter (sonic transmitter 410) for transmitting a first signal; a board (i.e., display means 20) including at least three first receivers (note the sonic receivers 440, 450 and 460, located at three corners of the board 20) for receiving said first signal; and operating means for calculating moving distances in two directions of a pointer on said board pointed by said indicator based on a varying amount of said first signal received by said first receivers (col. 8, lines 1- 67).

As to claim 2, Fan (fig. 5) shows a pointing device, wherein said indicator (i.e., pointing means 40) further includes a second transmitter (420) for transmitting a second signal, wherein said board further includes a second receiver (note the sonic receivers 440, 450 and 460, located at three corners of the board 20) for receiving said second signal; and output means for outputting a command signal in response to said second signal received by said second receiver (col. 8, lines 1-31).

As to claim 3, Fan discloses a pointing device, wherein said second transmitter (420) transmits, as said second signal, third signals at a time interval changing in response to said command signal, and wherein said output means outputs said command signal in response to said time interval of said third signals (see fig. 5; col. 8, lines 32-67).

As to claim 4, Fan discloses a pointing device comprising: a first transmitter (sonic transmitter 410) for transmitting a first signal; a board (i.e., display means 20) including a plurality of first receivers (note the sonic receivers 440, 450 and 460, located at three corners of the board 20) for receiving said first signal. Fan teaches about a position calculator for calculating a horizontal component and a vertical component of a position of said board corresponding to a location associated with said signal using output from said first receivers (col. 8, line 20-31).

As to claim 5, Fan discloses a pointing device comprising: a first transmitter (note the sonic transmitter 410) for transmitting a first signal; a board (note the display means 40) including a plurality of first receivers (440, 450 and 460) for receiving said first signal; and a position calculator for calculating at least two distinct directional components of a position of said board corresponding to a location associated with said signal using output from said first receivers (col. 8, line 20-31).

Conclusion

1. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Dunthorn (U.S. Pat. No. 5,317,140) discloses a system and methods for optically determining the direction of an object such as a pointer.

Barrus (U.S. Pat. No. 5,914,783) discloses a method and apparatus for detecting the location of a light source.

Ogawa (U.S. Pat. No. 6,100,538) discloses an optical digitizer and display means for providing display of indicated position.

Sibert et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,184,863) disclose a direct pointing apparatus and method .

Omura et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,421,042) disclose a coordinate-position inputting/detecting device.

Furihata et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,512,507) disclose a pointing position detection device.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Fritz Alphonse whose telephone number is (703)-308-8534. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 8:30-6:00, Alt. Mondays off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Steven J Saras can be reached on (703)-305-3900.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

Or faxed to:

(703) 872-9314 (for Technology Center 2600 only)

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA, Sixth Floor (Receptionist).

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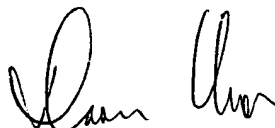
Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703)-306-0377.



Fritz Alphonse

Art Unit 2675

September 4, 2003



DENNIS-DOON CHOW
PRIMARY EXAMINER